

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUGGEST DEFINITIONS  
FOR SMALL AND LARGE FARMS AND BONA FIDE FARMER.

1 WHEREAS, there is a need to define farms by the process of  
2 the operations and not the acreage or amount of revenue; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, small farms, defined by the United States  
5 Department of Agriculture as those with a gross cash farm income  
6 less than \$350,000, range from retirement and residential farms  
7 with little or no output to commercially oriented farms with  
8 operators employed full-time in agriculture; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the  
11 United States Department of Agriculture categorizes nearly  
12 ninety-two percent of farms in Hawaii as small farms; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, neither the Department of Agriculture nor the  
15 Agribusiness Development Corporation have clear definitions of  
16 small and large farms or bona fide farmer; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, often times legislation is introduced that  
19 includes language without a clear and concise definition; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, Hawaii needs Hawaii-specific language to bring  
22 clarity to the definition of small and large farms and bona fide  
23 farmer and to be able to measure changes in agricultural  
24 diversity; now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
28 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to suggest  
29 definitions of small farms and large farms and bona fide farmer;  
30 and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that small farms be defined as farms  
33 where ownership has direct management of daily operations,



1 personal invested capital, and works on the farm, or a  
2 substantially equivalent definition; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that large farms be defined as farms  
5 where ownership has hired management for daily operations, no  
6 personal invested capital, and does not work on the farm, or a  
7 substantially equivalent definition; and  
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
10 attempt to ensure that the definitions of small farms and large  
11 farms comply with United States Department of Agriculture  
12 definitions; and  
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
15 report its suggested definitions, including any proposed  
16 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
17 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
21 Agriculture.

